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HOUSE RESOLUTION 105
By Hagood

A RESOLUTION To honor and congratulate Sequoyah
Elementary School on earning the highest
Reading Achievement Scores on the TCAP
tests.

WHEREAS, It is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those exemplary educational institutions that, through their abiding commitment to the academic development of their students, are a credit to this State; and

WHEREAS, One such noteworthy establishment is Sequoyah Elementary School; among 1,220 Tennessee elementary and middle schools, its students earned the highest Reading Achievement Scores on the Spring 2000 Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment (TCAP) exams; and

WHEREAS, The standardized test scores, compiled by the Tennessee Institute for Public Policy, ranks students in reading, math, language arts, science, and social studies; and

WHEREAS, This exemplary school's success in reading, and in all its academic endeavors, can be directly attributed to its high parental involvement, superb faculty, and the diligence of its students; and

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WHEREAS, At Sequoyah Elementary School, students participate in daily reading programs tailored to fit their individual reading levels; fifth grade advanced readers work on vocabulary enrichment written for sixth grade students, third and fourth grade advanced students participate in advanced vocabulary, and all second through fifth grade students work on vocabulary enrichment; content area enrichment is provided through Science Olympiad, Math Olympiad, and Current Events League; and

WHEREAS, In one innovative program, students read not just with their teachers, but also with their peers: Kindergartners read with fifth graders, second graders read with fourth-graders, and first-graders read with third-graders; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable school also has an extraordinary library, which offers after school library hours; on Thrilling Thursday, the library is open from 3:00 PM to 6:15 PM; during this time students are able to check out books, listen to stories, and use the library's computers to research reports, explore their interests, and take Accelerated Reader Tests; the points students accumulate on the Accelerated Reader tests can be used at the library's store, Reading n' Riches, which is open once every six weeks; and

WHEREAS, Through the partnership in education program, The Marble Slab Creamery Readers, the top twenty-five students of each class with the highest reading points build ice cream sundaes; reading outside of class, kindergarten and first grade students accrue reading points for the month of April and second through fifth grade students accumulate reading points from the first day of school till May 1, 2001; and

WHEREAS, Knox County, in an effort to further strengthen early literacy, provided staff development for Children Achieving Reading Excellence and Stimulating Maturity Accelerated Reading Training; Sequoyah Elementary has implemented both of these important programs at the kindergarten level; and

WHEREAS, Martha Hill, the astute principal of Sequoyah Elementary School, has said, our "goal is for every child, every year, to learn as much as he or she can"; and

WHEREAS, By attending professional workshops inside and outside the school district, Sequoyah teachers continue to grow as educators; they challenge their students by using supplementary materials in the classroom, which are provided by the Curriculum Generalist, such as trade books, first and second grade homework workbooks, enrichment materials for advanced kindergarten and first grade readers, and other enrichment materials provided by Knox County Schools; and

WHEREAS, Sequoyah Elementary School is also proud of its parental involvement; parents participate in Parent Readers, a program in which parents come into the classroom to read to the students; the Sequoyah PTA sponsors many valuable activities, including the fundraisers Book Fair, Carnival, and a cookbook titled Reading, Writing, and Recipes; and

WHEREAS, As part of the Book Fair project, each teacher makes a basket; the winning teacher's basket receives fifty dollars to purchase books at the School Book Fair for his or her class; and

WHEREAS, As outstanding role models, all the teachers and administrators of Sequoyah Elementary perform their duties with the utmost skill, integrity, and devotion; it is truly one of the finest elementary schools in our State; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that this General Assembly should honor those institutions that stand as the academic ideal, as they serve to educate and to enrich the lives of the students in their care; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby honor and congratulate the faculty, administration, and students of Sequoyah Elementary School on earning the highest TCAP reading scores, commend their commitment to education, and extend our best wishes for every future success and happiness in all their academic endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.